

## Important Information for All Alaskans



# Alaska Lands



Insert for Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage Times, Fairbanks News-Miner, Southeast Alaska Empire — March 1981

## What the Alaska Lands Act Means to You

The map of Alaska changed dramatically Dec. 2, 1980, when the Alaska Lands Act was signed into law. Suddenly, residents of the 49th state found themselves neighbors to new national parks and park preserves, new wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, national conservation and recreation areas and additions to national forests and new owners of state lands.

These units include areas of great scenic magnificence and scientific value. Many have great wildlife and wildlife habitat values. The action by Congress provides for their protection and administration by several federal agencies.

Alaskans have shown great interest in how these new parks, refuges, wild rivers and other areas will be managed. Many have hunted or fished or camped there. Others may own private property within the areas or have a mining claim. This supplement, jointly sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is intended to answer your questions about these areas.

In addition to the creation of the new units, the act also provides for continuation of many traditional uses by many Alaskans (such as hunting and fishing), expedited conveyance of state lands; and provisions for the orderly development of natural resources in Alaska. This section deals mainly with the public uses of the new parks, refuges, wild rivers and other units.

A word of caution is in order. *The Alaska Lands Act (known formally as the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act) totals more than 180 pages and contains many complex provisions. Clarification of some provisions may take some time. This supplement is intended to provide a general description of the act but should not be read as a legally binding interpretation. Specific questions will be answered in the regulations.*

Proposed interim regulations have been issued by two agencies, the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, to meet special Alaskan needs in administering the units. The major philosophy of the interim regulations is that the units are generally open to most public uses unless specifically closed. Permanent regulations to replace them will be developed later. The public is encouraged to comment on the proposed interim regulations which will be finalized in March; comments must be submitted by March 11. Copies of these proposed interim regulations may be obtained by writing the National Park Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the addresses in the box on the right.

Person wishing more information regarding these new units should keep in mind that their management may differ according to the agency administering them and that the regulations rather than the general statements here will ultimately control. The addresses and phone numbers for the land managers follows this article.



### Federal Land Managers

#### National parks, park preserves and park monuments

National Park Service  
540 W. 5th Ave., Room 202  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 271-4196

White Mountain National  
Recreation Area and Seese  
National Conservation Area,  
Bureau of Land Management  
701 C Street, Box 13  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513  
Phone: (907) 271-5555

#### Wildlife Refuges

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1011 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 276-3800

Misty Fjords and Admiralty Island  
National Monuments and additions  
to the national forests

U.S.D.A. Forest Service  
P.O. Box 1628  
Juneau, Alaska 99802  
Phone: (907) 586-7282

### In this Special Issue

- National Preserves
- Mining
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## Alaska Preserves

Aniakchak National Preserve

376,000 acres

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

2,457,000 acres

Gates of the Arctic National Preserve

900,000 acres

Lake Clark National Preserve

1,214,000 acres

Noatak National Preserve

6,460,000 acres

Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve

4,171,000 acres

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

1,713,000 acres

Glacier Bay National Preserve

57,000 acres

Katmai National Preserve

308,000 acres

Denali National Preserve

1,330,000 acres

Total acres—18,986,000 (approximate)



serve is that sport hunting and trapping are allowed in a preserve.

Of course, sport hunting and trapping in these new preserves will be subject to state hunting laws, seasons, bag limits and federal laws or regulations, as are other federal lands in Alaska.

The Alaska Lands Act also allows the National Park Service to restrict such activities when necessary for specific reasons such as public safety, resources protection, administration or public use and enjoyment.

Except in emergencies, hunting, fishing or trapping restrictions may be put in effect only after consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Most Alaskans are familiar with the activities allowed in national parks and national monuments. Many have visited Mt. McKinley National Park or Glacier Bay or Katmai National Monuments.

But few probably have visited a national preserve before. Only two existed before the Alaska Lands Act was signed (Big Thicket in Texas and Big Cypress in Florida).

The 10 new preserves created in Alaska include areas adjacent to Mt. McKinley, Glacier Bay and Katmai as well as seven new areas.

The basic difference between a national park or monument and a park pre-

## Access

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act guarantees reasonable access to all nonfederally owned land in the units established by the act. Access is to be reasonably regulated.

For information on specific conservation units contact the land managers. Their addresses and phone numbers are listed on page one.

Three major access categories addressed by the act are:

1. Access to private property.
2. Access through public lands.
3. Access by traditional means.

### Access to Private Property

Access is guaranteed to private land, which include homesteads, valid mining claims, trade and manufacturing sites, headquarters sites, Native allotments and state and Native lands inside

the federal units. However, Congress also provides that access must not cause unreasonable damage to the environment. The proposed access rules for park and refuge lands are now out for public comment.

### Access through Public Lands

Title XI of the act sets up a uniform process to apply for rights-of-way for transportation and utility systems in, to and across conservation system units and provides for

quick review of applications. This section governs applications for use of the Haul Road, Stikine River region and similar areas.

### Access by Traditional Means

The act specifically guarantees access by traditional means including airplanes, motorboats and snowmachines on all areas. This use cannot be prohibited without following a specific process. Such access is subject to reasonable regulation.

## Commercial Fishing

Generally, commercial fishing activities can continue in the new parks and refuges but not in excess of 1979 levels.

Campsites, cabins, motorized vehicles, and aircraft landings used directly incident to commercial fishing activities are generally permitted on refuges.

On those National Park Service-managed lands identified as Cape Krusenstern National Monument, the Malaspina Glacier Forelands area of Wrangell-Saint Elias National Preserve, and the Dry Bay area of Glacier

Bay Preserve, the Secretary of the Interior must allow the reasonable exercise of valid commercial fishing rights or privileges obtained under existing law, including the use of federal lands for cabins, campsites, motorized vehicles and aircraft landings when the use is directly related to commercial fishing.

Commercial fishing licenses and permits are regulated by the State of Alaska.

*Boundaries of all areas created by the bill do not extend beyond mean high tide. Hence offshore commercial fishing is not affected.*

## Alaska Lands

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# How Will Mining Be Affected

No doubt about it, the Alaska Lands Act has a lot to say about mining in Alaska.

The act clears the way for a number of mines in Southeast Alaska, initiates a study of the mineral potential in the Kantishna Hills/Dunkle Mine areas and closes other areas to mineral development.

Lands managed by the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including the new units created by the act, are withdrawn from any new mining claim locations, entry and patent.

Wildlife refuges created by the act might be opened to mineral leasing in the future if such activities are compatible with the refuges' purposes. The national parks, monuments and preserves administered by the National Park Service are closed to all mineral leasing.

Of course, those holding valid mining claims in the new units may continue to operate on both National Park and Fish and Wildlife lands, subject to reasonable regulation. Proposed interim regulations.

lations on this subject have been issued by the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service.

Regulations regarding mining claims, such as annual assessment work, recording requirements and patenting procedures, still are in effect. The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for those requirements and for supplying information about federal mining claims recordation to other agencies.

Studies of the Kantishna Hills and Dunkle Mine areas will be conducted by the Alaska Land Use Council to determine the mineral potential of the areas, the environmental consequences of industrial development and the estimated cost of acquiring existing mining properties.

Two special management areas created by the new act are to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The Steese National Conservation Area and the White Mountain National Recreation Area, located in interior Alaska, contain about 7,300 mining claims. Access to these claims is guaranteed by the legislation.

## Status of Monuments

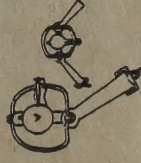
All of the Monument and other executive withdrawals made during the Carter Administration in 1978 and 1980 are now revoked. These withdrawals are now superseded by the land designations contained in the Alaska Lands Act. In addition, the Act contains the "no more" clause which bars similar unilateral executive actions in the future. If made, such executive withdrawals will automatically terminate in one year unless specifically approved by Congress.

## Trapping

Trapping is allowed in most of the new units established under the Alaska Lands Act, although there are some exceptions.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued proposed interim regulations allowing trapping to continue on the new national wildlife refuges as has the National Park Service for park preserves.

Of course, the trapping must be in accordance with state game laws, seasons and bag limits as well as federal rules and regulations.



Trapping by local rural residents for subsistence purposes is

Although valid existing rights will be honored, both areas are withdrawn by Congress from new location, entry or patent under mining laws. Mineral development — whether leasing, location, entry or patent — may be permitted in the future if development is consistent with land use plans developed for them. The decision to open up the areas to new mineral uses depends on detailed land use plans to be completed within five years.

Holders of valid mining

claims in the two special management areas must comply with applicable federal and state mining laws. Claim holders also are subject to reasonable restrictions to protect the environment and other resources.

Those interested in mining should understand that federal lands not specifically mentioned in the act remain in the same status as before: that is, those lands that were open to mineral location, entry and patent remain open and those lands that

were closed remain closed. The act also requires the Interior Department to conduct a thorough evaluation of mineral potential, including oil and gas, on all public lands in Alaska. Findings must be sent to Congress by Oct. 1982 and updated yearly from then on.

If you have any questions about how the act affects your mining claim, consult the proposed interim regulations or contact the agency that manages the land on which it is located.

## State and Private Neighbors

Many of the new national parks, wildlife refuges or other new federal units in Alaska include within their borders "inholdings" of state or privately owned lands.

Owners of these "inholdings," such as mining claims, homesteads and villages, and state and Alaska Native lands, are guaranteed access by the act. Federal land managers may take steps to protect natural and other values of the federal lands surrounding these areas but they must allow reasonable access.

The act and the proposed regulations allow the use of snowmachines (with adequate snow cover or on frozen rivers), motorboats, airplanes

and non-motorized surface transportation for travel to and from villages and homesteads and for traditional activities. Such use is subject to reasonable restrictions to protect natural and other values of federal units.

Temporary access to or across federal units to state or privately owned land for survey, geophysical, exploratory or other temporary uses is permitted when such access will not result in permanent harm to the resources. The proposed interim regulations issued by the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service discuss these access issues for park and refuge lands in Alaska. Your comments are invited.

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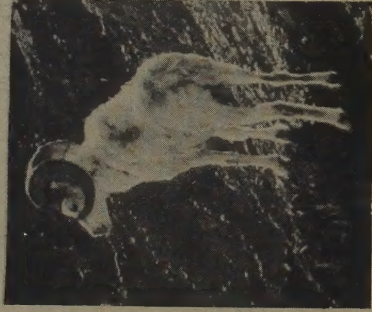
# Sport Hunting and Guides

One of the purposes of the Alaska Lands Act is to recognize the importance of recreational opportunities, such as sport hunting and fishing.

The act says that the taking of fish and wildlife for sport purposes is allowed on all federal lands in Alaska, except in national parks or National Park Service monuments. *However, sport hunting is allowed in national park preserves.*

National wildlife refuges and Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service-managed lands will be open to sport hunting and fishing. Of course, hunting in these areas will be subject to state hunting laws, seasons, bag limits and federal laws or regulations.

While the refuges, preserves and other federal lands are open to hunting, there could be periods when sport hunting would be restricted or closed. This could occur in a refuge, for instance, if such action is advisable for the proper management of wildlife species, or for rea-



sons related to administration of the refuge unit or public safety.

Each person must possess all required licenses and comply with state and federal laws when hunting on national wildlife refuges or national park preserves or other federal lands.

The act does not specifically mention commercial guiding operations. However, management of fish and wildlife on the new units will be carried out in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

Regulations governing resident fish and wildlife species, including hunting, fishing and trapping regulations are developed and administered by the state.

## Conservation Units

In addition to national parks and wildlife refuges, the Alaska Lands Act set up two new multiple use areas — the Steese National Conservation Area and the White Mountain National Recreation Area.

The 1.22 - million - acre Steese and 1 - million - acre White Mountains units will be administered by the Bureau of Land Management under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

In setting up the two units, Congress set objectives for their management.

For instance, Congress specifically recognized their mineral resources as nationally important, as well as having considerable local and statewide significance. Within five years, BLM will develop a land-use plan for each area.

Land in the Steese National Conservation Area will be managed to protect the quality of scientific, historical, ecological and other environmental values. The area also will be managed to provide habitat for fish and wildlife and outdoor recreation



and other uses.

Areas of special value, such as a caribou range and the Birch Creek region, will receive special management consideration.

The White Mountains National Recreation Area will be managed to best provide for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment. It also

will be managed to conserve scenic, scientific, historic, fish and wildlife and other values contributing to public enjoyment.

A portion of the area, the Beaver Creek drainage, will receive special management consideration.

While valid mining claims will be honored, the lands

within both areas are withdrawn for the time being from new mining claim location, entry and patent.

However, the future land-use plan for the conservation area could allow reopening of suitable lands for location, entry and patent. Mineral development under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920

and the general mining laws would be permitted in the conservation area in accordance with the land-use plan.

In the recreation area, removal of nonleasable and leasable minerals may be permitted if such activities do not adversely affect administration of the area. Additional information can be found in the mining section of this supplement.

In both areas, the use of snowmachines, motorboats, airplanes and nonmotorized surface transportation methods would be permitted for traditional activities, and for travel to and from villages and homesites. Access to lands effectively surrounded by conservation or recreation areas would be guaranteed. Reasonable regulations concerning access may be issued in the future to protect natural and other values of the conservation and recreation area lands, in keeping with the purposes for their establishment.

Sport hunting and fishing and subsistence uses will be permitted in both the Steese National Conservation Area and the White Mountains National Recreation Area.



## Subsistence Management and Use

Congress saw great value in preserving the opportunity for rural Alaskans to continue their traditional subsistence life style.

The act recognizes the State of Alaska's existing responsibility to manage and regulate subsistence hunting and fishing on federal lands in Alaska under three guidelines provided in the Act. Existing state law deals with these guidelines. Discussion by state and federal officials as to what if any changes need to be made in the state system to comply with the Act.

Under these guidelines, the state establishes local advisory committees and a regional advisory council in each of six subsistence resource regions.

There must be a definition of nonwasteful subsistence

tence use of fish, wildlife and other renewable resources by local, rural Alaska residents. Subsistence use will take priority over other consumptive uses, including sport hunting and fishing, when or if it becomes necessary only to protect wildlife populations.

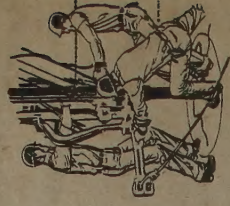
Reasonable access to public lands for subsistence activities is guaranteed. Use of snowmobiles, motorboats, and other traditional modes of surface transportation is guaranteed, subject to reasonable restrictions.

*Subsistence hunting and fishing and sport fishing will be permitted on National Park Service lands where it has been a traditional activity.*

The proposed interim regulations to be issued by the



## Oil and Gas Exploration, Development and Studies



The Act contains an oil and gas study provision for the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. To facilitate this study, a one million acre area is excluded from the Refuge's wilderness classification. The study includes wildlife assessments and oil and gas seismic exploration followed by a report to Congress in five years. In addition, a study of wildlife, wilderness, and oil and gas values of the Federal lands on the central North Slope is also directed.

The Secretary is also required to establish a program to pursue oil and gas leasing on non-North Slope federal lands outside conservation system units.

Lastly, the Secretary is directed to act on applications for oil and gas leasing in Wildlife Refuges which are not also designated as Wilderness. A decision on such an application must be made within a specified period of time. Leases are to be issued pursuant to an environmental compatibility finding. However, the Secretary has the burden of proof of documenting the basis for denying a lease application — a change from prior law.



Alaska has some of the wildest, most beautiful free-flowing rivers in the world. The Alaska Lands Act has officially designated 25 of them as wild and scenic rivers.

The rivers were made a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System which was established to preserve in a free-flowing condition American rivers that "possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values."

Designation in the system can mean classification as either wild, scenic or recreational rivers. Each classification establishes management guidelines and roughly defines allowable federally-funded development along each river (minimal development for "wild," moderate development for "scenic," and more intensive develop-

## Wild and Scenic Rivers

ment for "recreational.")

Limits on development along these rivers only apply to federal lands or federally-funded projects. Wild, scenic or recreational river status does not limit such things as hunting, fishing or trapping. As elsewhere, they would be subject to state and federal regulations in each area.

Provisions are made in the act for transportation and utility systems, special access and access to nonfederally-owned land in and across these new river designations.

The act also permits the use of snowmachines (during periods of adequate snow cover or frozen river conditions), motorboats, airplanes and nonmotorized surface transportation on or along these rivers.

Temporary permits also may be granted to the state or private landowners to permit access "for purposes of

survey, geophysical, exploratory or other temporary uses." However, landowners who qualify as inholders are guaranteed access across designated rivers.

Contact the appropriate land-managing agency concerning regulations for specific wild and scenic river areas.

Designated in total or in part as "wild" rivers are: Alagnak, Alatna, Aniakchak, Charley, Chilikadrotna, John, Kobuk, Mulchatna, Noatak, North Fork of the Koyukuk, Salmon, Tinayguk, Tikakila, Andreafsky, Ivishak, Nowitna, Selawik, Sheenjek, Wind, Beaver Creek, Birch Creek, Delta, Fortymile, Gulkana and Unalakleet.

In addition, segments of the Fortymile will be administered as scenic river areas and other segments of the Fortymile and a segment of the Delta will be adminis-



tered as recreational river areas.

Management plans for these rivers will be completed by Dec. 2, 1983, or in conjunction with the management plans for the park or refuge in which the rivers are located.

The act also requires the federal government to study for possible addition to the

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System these Alaska rivers: Colville, Etivluk-Nigu, Utukok, Kanektok, Kisaralik, Melozitna, Sheenjek (lower segment), Situk, Porcupine, Yukon (Ramparts section), Squirrel and Koyuk.

Studies and reports for these rivers must be completed by Dec. 2, 1983. Congress will make the final decision on their status.



Alaska Lands Act

DECEMBER 2, 1980

NOTE  
To make this map easier to read, only lands affected by the Alaska Lands Act are indicated. State and Native conveyances are not shown.



National Wildlife Refuge System

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Alaska Maritime NWR   | 7 Kenai NWR        |
| a Chukchi Sea Unit      | 8 Kenai NWR        |
| b Bering Sea Unit       | 9 Kodiak NWR       |
| c Aleutian Islands Unit | 10 Koyukuk NWR     |
| d Alaska Peninsula Unit | 11 Kluhwan NWR     |
| e Gulf of Alaska Unit   | 12 Selkirk NWR     |
| 2 Alaska Peninsula NWR  | 13 Tetlin NWR      |
| 3 Arctic NWR            | 14 Topusk NWR      |
| 4 Becharof NWR          | 15 Yukon Delta NWR |
| 5 Innoko NWR            | 16 Yukon Flats NWR |
| 6 Izembek NWR           |                    |

Refuge Wilderness

\*The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge consists of all the public lands in the coastal waters and adjacent seas of Alaska consisting of islands, islets, rocks, reefs, caps and spires.

National Park System

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 17 Aniakchak Nat'l Monument and Preserve       | 23 Katmai Nat'l Park and Preserve               |
| 18 Bering Land Bridge Nat'l Preserve           | 24 Kenai Fjords Nat'l Park                      |
| 19 Cape Krusenstern Nat'l Monument             | 25 Kobuk Valley Nat'l Park                      |
| 20 Denali Nat'l Park and Preserve              | 26 Lake Clark Nat'l Park and Preserve           |
| 21 Gates of the Arctic Nat'l Park and Preserve | 27 Noatak Nat'l Preserve                        |
| 22 Glacier Bay Nat'l Park and Preserve         | 28 Wrangell-Saint Elias Nat'l Park and Preserve |
|  | 29 Yukon-Charley Rivers Nat'l Preserve          |

Park Monument Preserve Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management System

- |  |
|--|
| 30 Steens Nat'l Conservation Areas       |
| 31 White Mountains Nat'l Recreation Area |
| NCA, NRA                                 |

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

- |                |
|----------------|
| 32 (26) Rivers |
|----------------|

National Forest System

- |                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 33 Chugach Nat'l Forest | 35 Admiralty Island Nat'l Monument |
| 34 Tongass Nat'l Forest | 36 Misty Fjords Nat'l Monument     |

Forest Wilderness



Alaska Lands Act

DECEMBER 2, 1980

**NOTE**  
To make this map easier to read, only lands affected by the Alaska Lands Act are indicated. State and Native conveyances are not shown.





# Wilderness

The term "wilderness" means different things to different people. In the Alaska Lands Act, "wilderness" refers to a very definite legal designation set forth in the 1964 Wilderness Act.

However, Congress established special provisions in the Act which make Wilderness areas in Alaska different from those in the Lower 48. A number of uses normally prohibited or restricted in Lower 48 wilderness are permitted in Alaska.

These new wilderness areas will be kept the way they are now. Access to these new areas will be about the same as it is now, by airplane, boat or snowmobile. Other activities, such as hunting or fishing, will depend not on the wilderness designation but on the other land classification for that particular area. No sport hunting is allowed in national parks whether they are designated wilderness areas or not but sport hunting in a wildlife refuge wilderness is permissible.

In Alaska, 32,355,000 acres have been designated wilderness within the National Park System and

18,560,000 acres have been designated in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Regulations are now being developed for specific wilderness areas. The law guarantees the use of snowmachines (when there is adequate snow cover or frozen river conditions), motorboats, airplanes and nonmotorized surface transportation in these new wilderness areas.

Hunting and fishing also are allowed in most wilderness areas, but, of course, are subject to federal and state laws, bag limits and seasons.

The act also allows temporary facilities and equipment directly and necessarily related to such activities. Such facilities and equipment must be constructed, used and maintained in a manner consistent with the protection of the area in which they are located.

Temporary access permits may also be granted to the state or private landowners for purposes of survey, geological or exploratory activities.

The Secretary of the Interior may reasonably regu-

## Conveyance of State and Native Lands

A major purpose of the Alaska Lands Act is to speed conveyance of lands to the State of Alaska, Native Corporations and other individuals. It amends the Statehood Act to facilitate the land selection process including a 10 year extension of the selection period. In addition, it legislatively conveys nearly all of the state's land to state ownership. Over 90 million acres of federal interest in land are transferred to state ownership by the Act.

Conveyance of Native corporation land choices made under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) are also expedited

by the measure. The Act contains a series of technical changes to ANCSA which facilitate carrying out the land settlement but do not increase the native entitlement. Moreover, it legislatively approves a series of land exchanges among the Federal government, the State of Alaska and Native corporations designed to improve land ownership and management patterns.

Lastly, the Act establishes special procedures to speed land transfers from the Federal government to previously qualified homesteaders, native allottees and other specified public land entrants.



late use of wilderness areas and expansion of equipment or facilities associated with such uses. The Secretary also may prohibit, only after notice and hearing, any use if the use "would be detrimental to the resource values of the unit or area" in which the use is occurring.

Congress also asked that the parts of the new parks, park preserves and refuges created by the Alaska Lands

Act which are not now designated wilderness be studied for possible designation later. During the study period wilderness management will not be imposed. That study must be completed within five years, including a process of public notice, public hearings and review by the state and other agencies. Congress then makes the final decision.

Roadless tracts of Bureau of Land Management lands are exempted from the mandatory wilderness reviews required pursuant to Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act

Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act

Contact the appropriate land-managing agency concerning regulations and permits for specific wilderness areas.

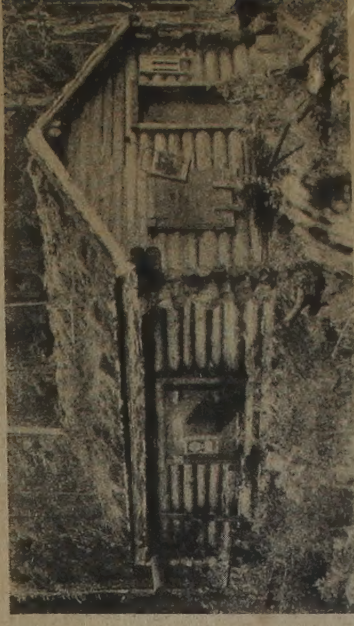
## Cabins

The cabin, long a part of the Alaskan life style, will continue to exist in the new parks, refuges and other units created by the Alaska Lands Act, although under certain restrictions.

*Of course, cabins on private or state lands within or near the new areas are not affected by the Act.*

The act allows construction of a limited number of new public use cabins and continued use and maintenance of existing cabins in wilderness areas "if such cabins and shelters are necessary for the protection of the public health and safety." These public use cabins would be owned and managed by the federal government.

Cabins directly associated with commercial fishing may continue to be used by fisher-



men with valid existing commercial fishing rights or privileges within wildlife refuges and Cape Krusenstern National Monument, the Malaspina Glacier Forelands area of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve and the Dry Bay area of Glacier Bay National Preserve.

Renewal or continuation of valid existing leases or

permits for cabins, homesites, or similar structures on federal lands is permitted subject to reasonable regulations. The appropriate land-managing agency should be contacted concerning permits or leases. Proposed interim regulations on cabin use have been issued by the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service.





U. S. Department of Agriculture

Alaska Lands

# Forest Service Programs

National forest lands and Forest Service programs in Alaska, administered by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, are affected in a variety of ways by the Alaska Lands Act (known formally as the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act).

The Act affects programs of the National Forest Sys-

tem, as well as cooperative forestry efforts of the Forest Service State and Private Forestry organization and activities of the Forest Service Research organization.

Following is a summary of provisions in the Alaska Lands Act regarding lands and programs in Alaska administered by the Forest Service.

## State and Private Forestry

State and Private Forestry programs of the Forest Service are directly affected by a number of special provisions in the Act and through emphasis on increasing the yield of wood products through cooperative efforts with the State Forester and private forest

landowners.

Cooperative forestry and related resource programs are underway and have involved a number of Alaska Native villages and corporations in all forested regions of Alaska. Activity in these programs is expected to increase as a result of the Act.

In accord with the various laws governing the administration of national forests, such forests are managed for multiple use. The various resources are managed in the configuration that best meets the needs of the American people.

## Research

Forest Service research programs are directly affected through a number of studies directed by the Alaska Lands Act.

The Act mandates more intensive forest practices in Alaska that will yield more timber including increased volume from so-called marginal forest stands. The technology for maintaining or increasing timber production while protecting the environment, wildlife, and other resources will be strengthened.

Research will be concentrated in two general areas: 1) intensive timber management and utilization, and 2) environmental protection.

Studies will explore methods to improve growth

and yield by thinning and other cultural management practices, improve timber harvest equipment and technology for use in southeast Alaska terrain, and intensify timber utilization. Studies will also be done to determine costs and benefits of different timber management practices.

In connection with timber harvest, additional studies will determine how to protect and enhance production of anadromous fish, protect wildlife habitat, minimize impacts on soil and water, and maintain scenic values.

Most of the research in fiscal year 1981 will be done through cooperative studies with universities and other contractors.

(Regulations governing incident fish and wildlife species, including hunting, fishing, and trapping regulations on the national forests, are developed and administered by the State.)

The Alaska Lands Act, together with earlier laws governing the administration of national forests, provide for comprehensive planning. This planning is coordinated with State and local community planning efforts.

The Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan (TLMP), developed during the 1977-79 period, was utilized in the development of the Alaska Lands Bill. In accordance with the legislative history (Congressional Record, August 19, 1980), TLMP will be modified to reflect the land use designations and other changes prescribed by the Act.

Misty Fiords National Monument, Tongass National Forest.

## Alaska's National Forests

The Forest Service's Alaska Regional Plan and Chugach National Forest Plan, which are now being prepared, will also reflect these planning efforts.

provisions of the Alaska Lands Act. The State, local communities, and the public will be involved in all of these planning efforts.

## Additions and Land Adjustments to National Forest Areas

Four areas totaling 1,900,000 acres are added to the Chugach National Forest by the Act; Nellie Juan, College Fiord, Copper/Rude River, and Controller Bay. Three areas totaling 1,450,000 acres are added to the Tongass National Forest; Kates Needle, Juneau Icefield, and Dabobson Range.

### Alaska Region, National Forest System

	Tongass N.F.	Chugach N.F.
Total acreage before act	15,555,388 Acres Net	4,392,646 Acres Net
Total acreage after act	17,005,388 Acres Net*	6,292,646 Acres Net*
Wilderness acreage created	5,361,899 Acres**	None Created
Wilderness Study	None Created	2,019,000 Acres
Wild and Scenic River Study	Situk River***	None Created

\* This net total includes 57,000 acres that were deleted from the Tongass National Forest and 97,000 acres that were deleted from the Chugach National Forest. The Act also provides for additional transfers of national forest land to Native Corporations, the State, and the Fish and Wildlife Service of an estimated 296,000 acres on Afognak Island and estimated 242,000 acres to the Chugach Native Corporation.

\*\* Final acreage may vary from these figures as official boundary maps are completed.

\*\*\* The Act provides for a maximum of 640 acres on each side of the river, for each mile of river length.



## Forest Service Programs

### National Forest Timber Supply and Harvest

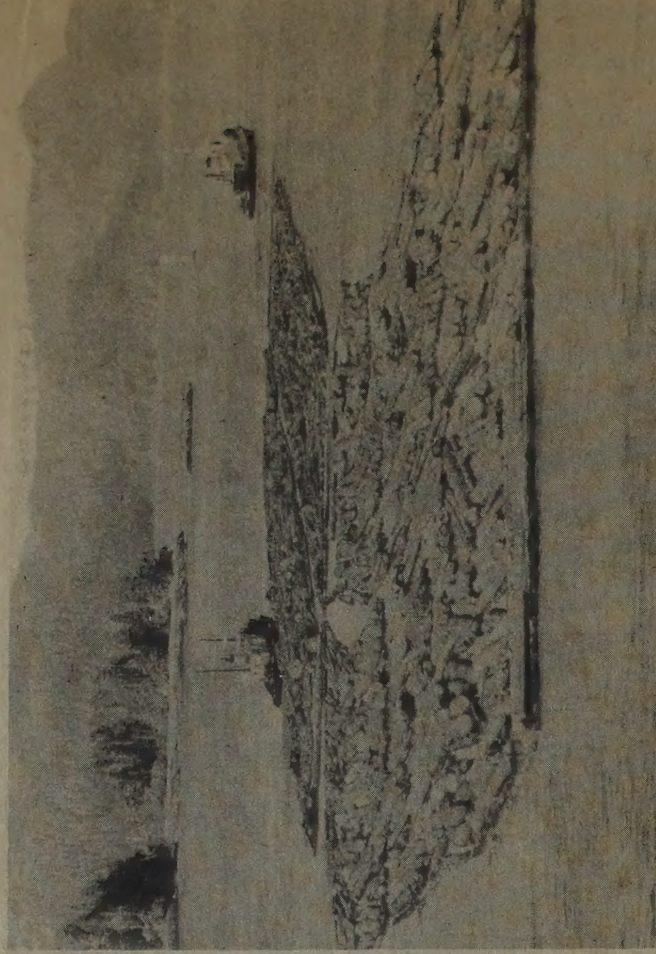
The Act directs the Forest Service to maintain a timber supply of 4.5 billion board feet per decade on the Tongass National Forest. Timber yield on the Chugach National Forest will be determined with the development of the Chugach Forest Plan.

The Act requires a series of reports to Congress on (1) the status of timber harvest levels in the Tongass National Forest since enactment; (2) the impact of Wilderness designation on the timber, fishing, and tourism industries in southeast Alaska; (3) measures instituted by the Forest Service to protect fish and wildlife; and (4) the status of the Small Business Set Aside Program on the Tongass National Forest.

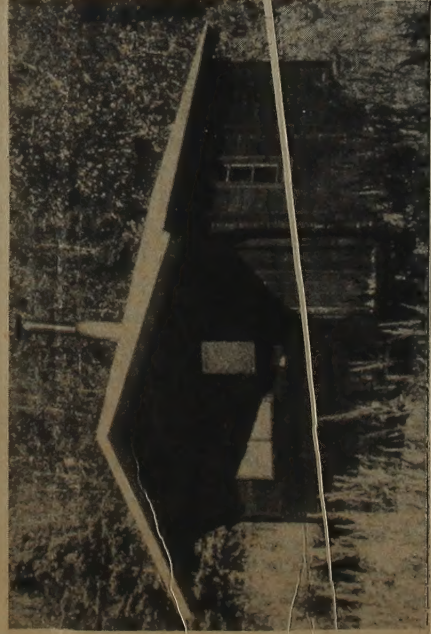
The studies required for these reports will be con-

ducted in cooperation and consultation with the State, affected Native corporations, the southeast Alaska timber industry, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, and the Alaska Land Use Council. An annual report will be submitted to the Senate's Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the House of Representative's Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

The Act authorizes that a special loan program be established for purchasers of National Forest wood products to help them acquire equipment and to develop new technology for using wood products. This program is designed to encourage the utilization of marginal supplies of timber. A fund of 5 million dollars will be established for these loans.



The Act directs the Forest Service to maintain a timber supply of 4.5 billion board feet per decade on the Tongass National Forest.



Existing public use cabins within Wilderness designated by the Act will be maintained.

#### Wild and Scenic Rivers

The Situk River near Yakutat on the Tongass National Forest is designated for study as a potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System. The Forest Service will conduct a study of the river by September 30, 1984, to determine whether it should be included in the National System. The Forest Service will solicit advice from the public and

other agencies in preparing this study.

During the study period, all public lands within an area extending two miles from the banks of both sides of the river are withdrawn under this Act from mining, entry, sale, State selection, or other disposition under the Public Land Laws, except for valid existing rights.

#### Structures and Facilities Under Special Use Permit or Public Use

Existing special use permits and leases on all national forest lands for cabins, homesites, or similar structures will continue with some limitations on conveyance or transfer in Wilderness areas. Existing uses of temporary campsites, shelters, and other temporary facilities and equipment related to hunting and fishing will continue.

Existing public use cabins within Wildernesses designated by the Act will be maintained and, when necessary, replaced. A limited number of new public use cabins and shelters in Wilderness areas may be constructed for public safety.



The Act specifically authorizes certain uses for Wilderness areas in Alaska, such as fishways, weirs, and hatcheries (this fishway is on the Chugach National Forest).

#### Wildlife and Fisheries Management

As on all National Forests throughout the United States, the State has the primary authority for management of resident fish and wildlife species and prescribing hunting, fishing, and trapping regulations.

##### Commercial and Sport Fishing

Boundaries, seasons, and limits for commercial and sport fishing in National Forest areas were not affected by the Act. Com-

mmercial and sport fishing regulations will continue to be administered by the State.

##### Fish Habitat Enhancement

Forest Service fisheries enhancement programs, in cooperation with the State, will continue. The Act provides for fishery research, management, enhancement, rehabilitation activities, and hatcheries within national forest Wilderness Study Areas designated by the Act.



# Forest Service Programs

## New Wilderness

The "Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act" established the following National Forest Wilderness Areas:

Wilderness	Acres
Admiralty Island National Monument Wilderness . . . . .	900,000
Coronation Island Wilderness . . . . .	19,122
Endicott River Wilderness . . . . .	94,000
Maurelle Islands Wilderness . . . . .	4,424
Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness . . . . .	2,136,000
Petersburg Creek —	
Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness . . . . .	50,000
Russell Fiord Wilderness . . . . .	307,000
South Baranof Wilderness . . . . .	314,000
South Prince of Wales Wilderness . . . . .	97,000
Stikine — LeConte Wilderness . . . . .	443,000
Tebenkof Bay Wilderness . . . . .	65,000
Tracy Arm — Fords Terror Wilderness . . . . .	656,000
Warren Island Wilderness . . . . .	11,353
West Chichagof — Yakobi Wilderness . . . . .	265,000
<b>TOTAL ACREAGE . . . . .</b>	<b>5,361,899*</b>

\* The final acreage of Wilderness areas may vary from these figures as official boundary maps are completed and State and Native selection acreages are deleted from these totals.

The Act allows until December 2, 1983, for the completion of the study of the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area on the Chugach National Forest. The study will involve the public and may result in recommending all or part of the Study Area for Wilderness designation. Until the study is complete and Congress has acted on the recommendations, the Study Area will be managed to protect its wilderness quality.

## Special Uses of Wilderness in Alaska

The Wilderness areas will be managed as directed by the 1964 Wilderness Act as amended by Alaska Lands Act. The primary objective of a Wilderness area is to maintain the Wilderness character of the land. However, the Alaska Lands Act specifically authorizes the following uses for Wilderness areas in Alaska:

### 1. Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping

Fishing, hunting, and trapping will continue as on other national forest land. They are subject to State fish and game regulations.

### 2. Subsistence

Subsistence uses, including sport hunting and fishing, will be given special attention on all national forest lands, including Wilderness.

### 3. Public Recreation Cabins

Existing public recreation cabins will continue to be maintained and may be replaced as needed. A limited number of new public cabins may be added if needed for health and safety reason.

### 4. Structures & Facilities Under Special Use Permit and/or Public Use

Existing special use permits and leases on all National Forest lands for cabins, homesites, or similar structures will continue. Use of temporary campsites, shelters, and

other temporary facilities and equipment related to hunting and fishing will continue.

### 5. Fish Habitat Enhancement

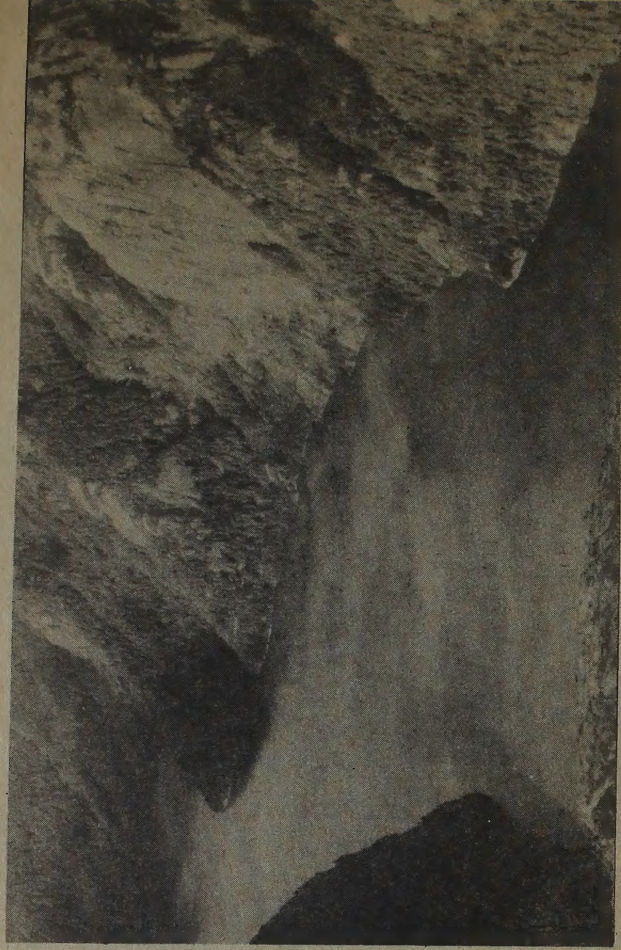
Fishery research, management, enhancement, and rehabilitation activities are permitted within national forest Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas designated by the Act.

This includes permanent improvements such as fishways, weirs, hatcheries, spawning channels, stream clearance, egg planting, and other accepted means of maintaining, enhancing and rehabilitating fish stocks.

In Wilderness, structures will be constructed in a rustic manner to minimize impact on the wilderness character of the area.

Reasonable access, including temporary uses of motorized equipment, will be permitted. Fish hatchery and related aquaculture projects are jointly renewed and approved by the State of Alaska and the Forest Service.

## Misty Fiords National Monument.



### 6. Special Use Permits for Guides and Outfitters

Existing guides and outfitters may continue to offer services within the Wilderness Areas under special use permits as on other National Forest lands.

### 7. Private, State, and Native Lands

Private, State, and Native lands within a Wilderness are not affected by this Act and access to these properties is assured.

### 8. Use of Airplanes, Motorboats, and Snow Machines

Existing use of airplanes, motorboats, and snow machines will continue and can only be restricted or prohibited after public hearings.

### 9. Timber

Timber may not be sold or harvested from Wilderness lands. Beach log salvage is permitted along saltwater shorelines. Timber may be used for campfires, trail construction, and to fulfill subsistence needs of local residents.



Admiralty Island in southeast Alaska.

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## Forest Service Programs

### Prospecting & Mining in National Forest Wilderness

The prospecting for and development of mineral resources are long established uses on national forests. A number of restrictions on such use apply to designated Wilderness areas. National Monuments are closed to further mineral entry, but valid claims remain.

The Wilderness Act permits exploration for mineral deposits until December 31, 1983. Mining claims determined to be valid as of December 31, 1983, can be developed. Mining claims located in these Wilderness areas prior to establishment by the Act include both the land surface and minerals beneath the surface.

Although National Monuments are closed to mineral entry, the Alaska Lands Act provides for mineral development in specific portions of both Misty Fiords and Admiralty Island National Monuments. These provisions accommodate proposed mining development by U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation at Quartz Hill in the Misty Fiords National Monument and the Pan Sound Venture at Greens Creek in the Admiralty Is-

land National Monument. Although the lands in the area of both Quartz Hill and Greens Creek are withdrawn from entry, the Act provides for continued prospecting on lands within  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile of

valid claims. This will permit some expansion of both operations should additional valuable deposits be located adjacent to the valid claims.

The new legislation pro-

hibits new mining claims in the Copper/Rude River addition to the Chugach National Forest. However, mineral removal on existing claims will be allowed under reasonable regulations.

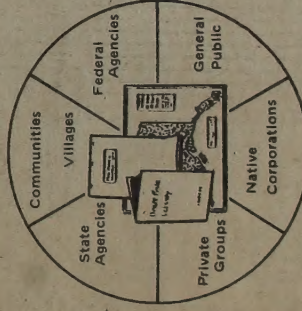


The Prospecting for and development of mineral resources are long established uses on National Forests.

### Cooperative Studies

The Act prescribes a number of cooperative studies and plans. In several of these, specific cooperators have been named. In such studies, the Forest Service will follow established land management planning procedures for public involvement. Cooperators will include other Federal agencies, State agencies, communities, Native corporations and villages, and private groups. Involvement of the general public will be elicited. The Alaska Land Use Council will also be involved in these studies.

A cross-section of resource issues will be studied:



- \* Mining and fisheries, cooperative fisheries, aquaculture;

- \* Operational plans for mining and mining access within some Wilderness areas;

- \* Wilderness study, opportunities to increase timber yields, monitoring of timber supply and demand in southeast Alaska;

- \* Canadian-Alaska access, coordinated land ownership;

- \* Wild and scenic rivers;
- \* Oil and gas leasing potential.

### Chugach Region Study

The Alaska Lands Act specifically directs the completion of a Chugach Region Study within one year - that is, by December, 1981. The Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, along with the Alaska Land Use Council; the Chugach Natives, Inc.; and the State of Alaska, will study land ownership and use patterns in the Chugach Region.

The study objectives are to identify lands that can be made available for conveyance to Chugach Natives, Inc., in keeping with the intent and purpose of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and to improve the boundaries of conservation units. The one-year study will involve affected communities and will include public hearings.

The results of the study will be transmitted to the President who will in turn report to Congress along with any proposed legislation to implement study recommendations.

The Alaska Lands Act provides other opportunities for coordination of activities. Resource inventories are of vital importance to the successful implementation of this Act.

### Development of Regulations

The Alaska Lands Act will require the development of various regulations to implement specific provisions of the Act. The State of Alaska, local communities, public and private organizations, and individuals will be involved in the development of these regulations involving Forest Service programs in Alaska.

Further information on The Alaska Lands Act, as it affects Forest Service programs and activities, may be obtained by contacting any Forest Service office in the State.

Oil, gas, and other energy resource surveys; mineral exploration; and renewable resource surveys are essential to the development of land management plans which can make the United States more independent of foreign energy, minerals and other resources.

Forest Service inventories of Alaska's forests and related renewable resources will be coordinated with State and other agency surveys.

The Alaska Lands Act also provides for the establishment of an Alaska Lands Bank. Management agreements involving forest lands can be developed under these provisions of the act.